United Nations CRPD/CSP/2008/1

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
New York, 31 October and 3 November 2008
Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Election of the members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Note by the Secretary-General

1. Article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides for the establishment of a Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also provides that members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by the States parties from among their nationals at meetings of the Conference of States parties and that the initial election shall be held no later than six months after the date of entry into force of the Convention.

2. In compliance with article 34, paragraph 6, of the Convention, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 3 July 2008, invited the States parties to submit their nominations for the election of 12 members of the Committee not later than 3 September 2008. The Secretary-General has prepared the following list, in alphabetical order, of all persons nominated by 3 September 2008, indicating the States parties that had nominated them. Nominations received after this date will be issued in addenda to the present document.

* CRPD/CSP/2008/2.

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Candidate	*Nominated by*
Ms. Amna Ali Al Suweidi	Qatar
Mr. Mohammed Al-Tarawneh	Jordan
Mr. Lotfi Ben Lallahom	Tunisia
Mr. Monthian Buntan	Thailand
Mr. Manuel de Jesús Campos Labrador	Panama
Mr. Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri	Bangladesh
Ms. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes	Chile
Mr. Alpha Boubacar Diop	Guinea
Mr. György Könczei	Hungary
Mr. Mateo A. Lee, Jr.	Philippines
Ms. Ana María Liévano de Sol	El Salvador
Mr. Ronald McCallum, AO	Australia
Mr. Sivalingum Moodley	South Africa
Ms. Ana Peláez Narváez	Spain
Mr. Jesús Juan Portalanza Güere	Peru
Ms. Colette Roberts-Risden	Jamaica
Mr. Germán Xavier Torres Correa	Ecuador
Mr. Cveto Uršič	Slovenia
Ms. Jia Yang	China

3. The curricula vitae of the above candidates, as furnished by their Governments, are contained in the annex to the present document.

Annex

Curricula vitae of candidates

Amna Ali Al Suweidi (Qatar)

Date and place of birth: 26 November 1964, Doha

Working languages: Arabic and English

Current position/function:

1. Consultant at the People with Disabilities Management.
2. Lecturer at the University of Qatar in the Special Education Graduate Programme.
3. Vice-President of the integration of students with disabilities into mainstream Schools Committee.
4. President of the Qatari Delegation to study and discuss the international agreement on the human rights of people with disabilities.
5. Member of the Gulf Cooperation Council Organizing Committee for Disability from 2004 to 2008.
6. Member of the People with Disabilities Survey Team and Supervisor of the survey's form.
7. Consultant for several schools for special needs and disabilities students.
8. Member of the Qatari National Committee for People with Special Needs.
9. Member of the Special Needs Parents' Association.

Main professional activities:

1. Studying international agreements and national law projects of people with disabilities and presenting recommendations in the best interest of the people with disabilities in Qatar.
2. Proposing and planning general and particular events for people with disabilities and coordinating with other concerned administrations and parties.
3. Observing projects and initiatives related to people with disabilities on the local, Arab and international levels and presenting recommendations.
4. Participating in setting the scientific programme, attending conferences and regional and international meetings concerning people with disabilities, and submitting detailed reports to the Secretary-General on the results of those meetings and the potential benefits.
5. Creating communication lines and technical cooperation with regional and international institutions working with people with disabilities.
6. Fixing the framework, vision and necessities of required consultative studies from experts and researchers.

7. Participating in the Administration's employee's assessment and suggesting methods and procedures to enhance their technical abilities.

Educational background:

- PhD in Education Philosophy — special education major at Hull University in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in February 2002. The first Qatari to receive a PhD in this major.
- Seminars and programmes on Special Education Schools Administration and Deaf Culture and Sign Language from Gallaudet University, Virginia, USA.
- MA in Special Education — Mental Retardation and Learning Difficulties, Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain in 1993.
- BA in Special Education from the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain in 1991.
- Has worked as Special Education Coordinator in the Qatari Ministry of Education and Higher Education since 2002.
- Taught at the Tarbiya Fikriya School for children with disabilities in the State of Qatar from 1987 till 1998.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- Participated in War and Disability Campaign held in Beirut on 4 and 5 July 2008.
- Participated in the World Autism Day celebration that took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 to 3 April 2008.
- Participated in the Regional Seminar to Develop Children's and Disability Support: knowledge, understanding and awareness of the application of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and on providing information in an easy and practical way to support children with disabilities, that took place in Amman from 26 to 28 March 2008.
- Participated in the national discussions on the demographic policy in the State of Qatar (People with Disabilities Section) held on 31 January 2008 in Doha.
- Participated in a seminar on information, statistics and studies related to disabilities held in October 2007 in Amman.
- Participated in a regional seminar on the rights of people with disabilities to jobs and professional training held in December 2007 in Cairo.
- Participated in a special meeting to discuss the draft international convention on the human rights of people with disabilities held at United Nations Headquarters from 2004 to 2007.
- Participated in several seminars and cultural meetings and conferences related to the international convention on the human rights of people with disabilities from 2003 to 2006.
- Participated in the meeting of the associations and local and governmental institutions organized by the Gulf Disability Society on 20 May 2004.

- Regional Workshop on Disability Statistics, held at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Building in Beirut from 21 to 23 March 2005.
- Went on a visit to the Special Education Centre for the Integration of Children with Disabilities in Mainstream Schools in Sweden from 2 to 9 April 2005.
- Participated in the Regional Workshop for Civil Sector Associations in the Middle East and North Africa region from 7 to 10 May 2005 in Tunis.
- First Arab Women's Summit Conference for Disabled Women — Confrontation — organized by the League of Arab States from 8 to 10 July 2006 in Cairo.
- Field trip to observe the Gulf Experience for services offered to people with disabilities in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Yemen from 1 to 7 February and 10 to 17 March 2006.
- The third Arab Experts' meetings to discuss the international agreement on the human rights of people with disabilities, held on 25 and 26 March 2006 in Cairo.
- Participating in several seminars, conferences and workshops related to special education (mental retardation, deafness and muteness, autism, and learning difficulties) in Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Belgium.

List of most recent publications in the field:

Supervising the following studies and research related to people with disabilities:

(a) The National Strategy Primary Expert for people with disabilities in the State of Qatar;

(b) The Primary Expert of the descriptive and analytical study on services offered by institutions to people with disabilities;

(c) Supervising the preparation of the survey form for people with disabilities in the State of Qatar.

Mohammed Al-Tarawneh (Jordan)

Date and place of birth: 17 March 1960, Karak, Jordan

Working languages: English, Arabic

Current position/function:

Currently working as a Senior Technical Adviser/Manager with ARD, Inc., implementing the Jordan Local Governance Development Project, funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation and administered by USAID working with nine pilot municipalities in Jordan. The component that Mr. Al-Tarawneh is managing is the Elections Participation and Gender Integration component. Citizen participation is the core of the component with special focus on youth and women.

Main professional activities:

Worked as the Director of Special Building Codes (Accessibility), Municipality of Greater Amman; Chief Adviser to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability; Country Director and Chief Expert on Disability for Iraqis with Disabilities Voter Education Programme for IFES, Inc., in Jordan; Senior Technical Adviser/Manager, ARD, Inc.; and as a civil engineer specialized in accessibility. He has gained tremendous experience developing, managing and implementing donor-funded projects by the United States Government, the United Nations, the European Union and other agencies. Has excellent knowledge of human rights issues and field experience in advocacy, awareness-raising, lobbying, networking and outreach for disability issues, especially accessibility and political participation of marginalized groups (i.e., women, children and people with disabilities). Also possesses experience coordinating and liaising with government agencies. community service officers and non-governmental organizations.

Educational background:

MA, Peace Diplomacy and Development, 2001, University of Juba, Sudan (the main focus was International Development and International Relations).

BSc, Civil Engineering, 1984, University of Alabama, Birmingham (the main focus was structural design and specialized in removal of architectural barriers — Accessibility).

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

Attended actively six of the ad hoc meetings that took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Served as the Special Adviser to the United Nations Special Rapporteur, Shaika Hessa Al-Thani, for one year when she was first appointed. Deep knowledge of the United Nations Standard Rules, the Arab Decade for Persons with Disability and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was recently adopted by the United Nations and signed and ratified by several countries, including Jordan. Established and managed the only department dealing with the removal of architectural barriers (Accessibility) in the Middle East and North Africa region at the municipal level.

List of most recent publications in the field:

Conducted several training workshops on awareness-raising, capacity-building and social outreach on persons with disability, disability mainstreaming and integration, and accessibility; and also several training seminars on political participation for persons with disability on civic and political rights. Member of the Royal Committee on the Jordanian National Disability Strategy.

Lotfi Ben Lallahom (Tunisia)

[Original: French/Spanish]

Date and place of birth: 22 January 1953, Tunis

Working languages: Arabic, French, English

Current position/function:

- Professor of Medicine, Tunis Medical School
- Director-General, Institute for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities

Main professional activities:

1. Disability prevention, diagnosis and research.
2. Basic training for special education teachers.
3. Continuing education for staff responsible for the care of persons with disabilities.
4. Training for directors of treatment centres for persons with disabilities.
5. Rehabilitation and special education for disabled children.
6. Inclusive education for disabled children.
7. Inspections and educational assistance in treatment centres for persons with disabilities.
8. Disability information, education and communication activities.
9. New information and communication technologies for persons with disabilities.
10. Involvement in the drafting of Tunisia's laws and regulations concerning disabilities.

Educational background:

- M.D.
- Professor of Workplace Medicine
- B.S. in ergonomics
- Certificate in environmental health
- Competence in legal redress for personal injury
- M.A. in occupational hazards

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- Member of the National Disability Research Committee, Tunisia
- Head of the Neonatal Deafness Early Detection Research Unit, Tunisia
- Head of the Childhood Learning Disability Research Team

– Head of the Multiple Disabilities Research Team, Tunisia

– Member of the Tunisian Disability Legislation Drafting Committee

List of most recent publications in the field:

– Co-author, Référentiel mondial sur les déficiences (global survey on disabilities). World Health Organization, 2007

– L'accessibilité pour les personnes handicapées: facteur d'intégration socioprofessionnelle (Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities: A Factor in Social and Professional Integration). **Handicap et Prévention**, 21 May 2006

– Sport chez les personnes handicapées en Tunisie (Sports for persons with disabilities in Tunisia). **Handicap et Prévention**, 22 December 2006

– L'Accessibilité numérique en bref (A Brief Survey of Digital Accessibility). **Handicap et Prévention**, 23 May 2007

– 20 ans d'éminentes realisations au benefice des personnes handicapées (20 Years of Significant Action on Behalf of Disabled Persons). **Handicap et Prévention** (magazine), 24 December 2007

– Projet du lexique tunisien du langage des signes (draft Tunisian sign language lexicon). **Handicap et Prévention** (magazine), 25 December 2008

Monthian Buntan (Thailand)

Date and place of birth: 2 May 1965 in Phrae Province, Thailand

Education:

June 1993	Master of Arts in Music Theory and Composition from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA
May 1990	Bachelor of Arts with honours in music from St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, USA
Oct 1988	Bachelor of Arts in English and philosophy from Chiangmai University, Chiangmai, Thailand

Career:

February 2008-present	Senator of Thailand
July 2003-present	Assistant Manager, DAISY for All Projects
1993-April 2002	Faculty, Deputy Director, Ratchasuda College, Mahidol University

Other positions:

April 2004-present	President, Thailand Association of the Blind
1999-present	Founder and Secretary-General, Thai Blind People's Foundation
1999-present	Founder and Vice-Chairperson, Thai National Institute for the Blind
	Executive Committee Member, World Blind Union (re-elected in 2004)
2000-2002	Member of the National Broadcasting Commission Search Committee
2001-2005	Member, Advisory Committee on Disability to the Prime Minister of Thailand
1999-2001	Member, Committee on the Educational Reform for Persons with Disabilities, Other Disadvantaged Groups and Gifted Children, Ministry of Education
1999-present	Founder and Coordinator, Thailand National Committee on DAISY-Production and Services
2001-2005	Member, Information Technology Committee, Ministry of Education
2002-present	Member of the Executive Committee, Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability
2003-2006	Representative from the Government of Thailand to the United Nations Ad hoc committee for the elaboration of the United Nations convention on the rights of persons with disabilities

Awards:

Received the Takeo Iwahashi Award, 2004 as the person who contributes to the betterment of life for the blind

Awarded a Plaque of Honour from the Prime Minister of Thailand in 2001 as an outstanding individual whose contributions have made significant improvement to the lives of persons with disability in Thailand

Named the Most Outstanding Person with Disabilities in Thailand from the Council on Social Welfare in 1995

Named "Outstanding Member of the Year" by the Alumni Association of Chiangmai School for the Blind in 1988

Manuel de Jesús Campos Labrador (Panama)

[Original: Spanish]

Date and place of birth: 11 July 1955, Panama

Working languages: Spanish and English (reading knowledge)

Current position/function:

Director-General, National Secretariat for Disabilities (SENADIS)

Main professional activities:

1. Director of the National Secretariat for Disabilities, an independent Panamanian institution responsible for oversight and implementation of policies for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families.
2. Faculty member, Psychology Department, University of Panama.
3. Human rights consultant to non-governmental organizations working in the area of the family and disability.
4. Adviser to the President of the Republic of Panama on disability issues.
5. Individual counselling on human rights and crisis intervention.

Educational background:

1. Masters-level research papers in the field of health.
2. Postgraduate study in education.
3. Postgraduate study in criminology.
4. B.A. in psychology.
5. Mid-level teaching post in psychology.

Other activities:

Chairman of the Organization of American States (OAS) Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities

Presented papers on disability, with an emphasis on human rights and public policy, at national and international conferences

Research in the field of disability

Publications:

Co-author of four self-instruction manuals used in a National Secretariat for Disabilities leadership training programme

Involved in preparation of the access manual for development of the national urban planning and architecture accessibility regulations

Technical consultant to the first national disability survey (PENDIS) — 2006

Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri (Bangladesh)

Date and place of birth: 15 November 1949, Sylhet, Bangladesh

Working languages: Bangla, English and Hindi

Current position/function:

1. Managing Director, self-governing entity of the Government of Bangladesh promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for persons with disabilities in Bangladesh. Having the responsibility as the Chief Executive Officer of the National Foundation for the Development of Disabled Persons. In accordance with article 3 (umo) of association of the Foundation, has been Member Secretary of the Governing Body and the General Body of the National Foundation since 15 March 2008.

2. Member of the National Coordination Committee under the Disability Welfare Act, 2001, Bangladesh, since 2001.

3. Member of the Executive Board, National Social Welfare Council, Bangladesh, since 15 March 2008.

Main professional activities:

- Founder, Trustee and Director of the IMPACT Foundation Bangladesh, an organization for the prevention of avoidable disability through innovative accessible services; principal architect of a floating modern hospital called Jibon Tori to provide medical services to the communities living at water's edge of Bangladesh, 1 December 1993 to 14 March 2008.
- Founder of the Bangladesh Visually Impaired Persons' Society, a self-help initiative of visually impaired persons for a rights-based, barrier-free society.
- Chairman of the Centre for Services and Information on Disability: involved comprehensively with development and management of community-based rehabilitation programmes targeting inclusive education and livelihood management facilitation promoting self-help groups of persons with disabilities in the districts of Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet since 1998 up to 9 March 2008.
- Chairman of the Centre for Disability and Development: provided guidance in establishing a country-wide community-based rehabilitation programme following an innovative approach, "Community Approaches to Handicap in Development", from 1996 to 9 March 2008.
- Provided leadership, direction and advice in mobilizing collective social movement for establishing equal opportunities and full participation in the lives of citizens with disabilities of Bangladesh by enacting requisite law.
- Provided active support and cooperation in promoting a network of non-governmental organizations working on the issues of disability and development in Bangladesh by establishing the National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) as the national apex coordinating body.

- Contributed actively to the National Foundation for the Development of Disabled Persons from its initial conceptual framework, management over the years and, most recently, in its restructuring and revised strategic directions as Managing Director.
- Actively participated in different national, regional and international seminars, conferences on disability and advocated the legitimate rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities.
- Contributed to creating a positive attitude towards the disability issue by writing articles and papers for various national and international conferences.
- Provided professional leadership, direction, guidance and management in organizing three international disability meetings in Dhaka, as the Chairperson of the four respective organizing committees, namely: the second Regional Conference of the South Asian Network on Community-Based Rehabilitation (4-6 December, 1997), the Regional Symposium on Disability (9-11 December 2003), the second Asian Conference of Deaf-blind International (29-31 January 2006) and the Organizing Committee of the third General Assembly and Conference of the Asia Pacific Disability Forum (APDF), held from 27-29 February 2008 and organized by APDF and NFOWD, in association with the Ministry of Social Welfare of the Government of Bangladesh.

Educational background:

- Master of Arts in Public Administration (as the first visually impaired student), University of Dhaka, 1974
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Political Science, University of Dhaka, 1972.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- Participated as a technical expert of the Government of Bangladesh delegation at the eighth and final session of the Ad Hoc Committee to draft the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, at the United Nations from 15 to 25 August 2006.
- Actively contributed to drafting the Disability Welfare Act 2001 as former Chairman of the Policy and Legislation Committee of NFOWD.
- Actively contributed to drafting position papers with proposals from the Government of Bangladesh for consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee to draft the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in July 2006.
- Actively contributed to drafting the proposal for restructuring the National Foundation for the Development of Disabled Persons, known in Bengali as the Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation, from June to October 2007.

List of most recent publications in the field:

- Keynote address at the third General Assembly and Conference of the Asia Pacific Disability Forum, held in Dhaka from 27 to 29 February 2008.

- Louis Braille Memorial Lecture, a vision for an extensive programme to be initiated by the Government of Bangladesh for the comprehensive educational development of persons with visual impairments in Bangladesh, 20 March 2007, Dhaka.
- Influencing the Government — Advocacy and Campaigning for Deaf-blind People, a paper presented at the second Asian Conference of Deaf-blind International, January 2006, Dhaka.
- Situation Analysis and Assessment of Education for Children with Disabilities in Bangladesh, South Asia, East Asia and South Africa, Commissioned by the Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom, in 2005.
- An Alternative Eye: A Study on the Situation and Prospect of the Use of Computer and Appropriate Software for Persons with Visual Impairment, Commissioned by the Peace Corps — Fredskopset, Norway, in 2003.

María Soledad Cisternas Reyes (Chile)

[Original: Spanish]

Date and place of birth: 4 November 1959, Santiago, Chile

Working languages: Spanish and English

Current position:

Director of the Legal Programme on Disability, Faculty of Law, Diego Portales University. Directs the Legal Programme; organizes rights promotion activities, seminars and other academic extension work; provides legal advice; organizes liaison with legal aid centres; provides actual legal defence; designs projects; delivers lectures; and engages in research and produces publications and special reports for Congress, ministries and national and international agencies.

Main professional activities:

- Director of the Legal Programme on Disability, Faculty of Law, Diego Portales University.
- Leader of legal and interdisciplinary research teams. The research is intended to influence legislation and public policy.
- Planner and organizer of academic extension activities for rights promotion.
- Instructor for courses designed by her: "Vulnerable groups: an emerging human rights issue" and "Bio Law: a modern debate". Both courses contain sections on persons with disabilities (undergraduate and post-graduate).
- Lecturer on "Constitutional provisions applicable to under-protected sectors" for the Master's degree in constitutional law at the Universidad Católica de Chile.
- Director of audiovisual projects (substantive aspects) to portray rights in formats accessible to all. Television spots and educational materials (right to vote and job access).
- Member of the Bioethics Committee of Diego Portales University.

Academic training:

- Law degree (graduated with highest honours) from the Universidad Católica de Chile. Thesis: Multinational enterprises: international treatment and regulation. Awarded the title of Supreme Court attorney.
- Master's studies in political science, Universidad Católica de Chile. Specialized field: Political institutions and processes. Thesis: Democracy and persons with disabilities.

Other activities related to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities:

- Was member and spokesperson of the delegation of Chile in the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee which prepared the draft of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Trained municipal judges, civil servants and members of civil society in various regions of Chile in the different aspects of the rights of persons with disabilities, drawing on the Convention on this subject.

- Organizes the "Observatory for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", in which civil society organizations and nationwide organizations of persons with disabilities participate.
- Co-scriptwriter and co-producer of the documentary "Six Women in America" dealing with the process of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from the gender perspective (women with disabilities).
- Has organized five major seminars on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. All were widely attended by national and international presenters and representatives of civil society.
- Conducts classes on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at faculties of law, psychology and education and at schools of special education, educational psychology and public administration in various regions of Chile; gives lectures and makes presentations on the Convention at national and international seminars.
- Writes articles on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the media and specialized publications, in order to publicize the Convention and highlight its importance.
- Cites the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in pleadings before law courts.
- Provides Parliament with opinions and specialized reports on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, for discussions of draft legislation.
- Advises the Human Rights Secretariat of the Latin American Union of Blind Persons (ULAC) and members of the Advisory Group of the Ibero-American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS).

Most recent relevant publications:

- "Disability and the need to make electoral processes more democratic", published by the Legal Research Centre of the Faculty of Law, Diego Portales University.
- "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", published by the Chilean Law Society Review.
- "Bioethics and its implications for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities", published by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).
- "The Chilean legal order and its approach to the phenomenon of discrimination", Law Review, Universidad Católica de Chile.
- Study on "Public policy and Chilean legislation concerning labour insertion of persons with disabilities, Comparative analysis of the experience of Canada and Spain and formulation of legal guidelines and public policy on the subject", Inter-American Development Bank.
- "Chilean legislation on mental health; comparative analysis with reference to international standards", Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and Ministry of Health.

Alpha Boubacar Diop (Guinea)

[Original: French]

Date and place of birth: 16 January 1959 at Tougue (Republic of Guinea)

Languages: French and adequate knowledge of (written) English

Current position/post

- Senior post of technical adviser on disability issues, in the Ministry of Social Welfare and Advancement of Women and Children.
- President of the West African Federation of Associations of Disabled Persons (FOAPH) since September 1995 (the members of the West African Federation of Associations of Disabled Persons are the national associations of disabled persons in the 15 countries of West Africa).
- President of the Panafrican Federation of the Disabled (PAFOD) since 20 June 2008 (the members of the Panafrican Federation of the Disabled are the five subregional federations of disabled persons in Africa (the West African Federation of Associations of Disabled Persons, the Central African Federation of Associations of Disabled Persons, the North African Federation of Associations of Disabled Persons, the East African Federation of Associations of Disabled Persons and the South African Federation of Associations of Disabled Persons) and the specific African regional organizations of disabled persons: the African Union of the Blind, the African Deaf Union, the Panafrican Federation of Persons with Mental Disabilities (all of Africa), the African Network of Women with Disabilities, the African Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, the Panafrican Federation of Persons Disabled by Leprosy, the Panafrican Federation of Deaf and Blind Persons, etc.).
- Member of the Board of the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP)
- Member of the Interim Committee of the African Deaf Union (ADU)
- Member of the World Council of Disabled Peoples' International (DPI)
- Member of the Board of the Pan African Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (PANUSP)
- As WNUSP representative, member of the panel of disabled experts working with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of persons with disabilities
- Ambassador for the African Decade of People with Disabilities.

Main professional activities:

- Encourage, influence and participate in the formulation and implementation by governments of African countries of policies and action programmes for the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities.
- Defend the interests and rights of persons with disabilities (including implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) by approaching the authorities through advocacy, information, education and communication, and training.

- Ensure coordination of the activities of the members of the executive committees and directors of regional offices of FOAPH and PANAPH for implementation of the action plans of those organizations.
- Represent FOAPH, PANAPH, WNUSP and ADU at regional, African and international meetings.
- Participate in the search for technical, material and financial resources to enhance the operational and organizational capacities of organizations of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and African level and to improve the well-being of disabled persons.
- Advise and guide the Government of Guinea on the promotion of special services to assist persons with disabilities.
- Supervise and support Guinean organizations of persons with disabilities through technical assistance and training.

Studies:

- Institut supérieur de formation des professeurs d'enseignement technique (ISFORPAK) in Matoto (Conakry), specializing in automotive engineering.
- Specialized training in the teaching of deaf persons at the Centre Chrétien de formation des enseignants sourds in Ibadan, Nigeria.
- Various training courses on leadership, education and promotion of educational services for deaf persons at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. (United States) and in Canada.

Other main activities in the area covered by the treaty body for which the candidate has been nominated:

- Participated in all the activities of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee responsible for drafting a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.
- Consultant and organizer of the national workshop on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held in Conakry by the Ministry of Social Affairs in cooperation with the Guinean Federation of Persons with Disabilities (FEGUIPAH) in March 2008.
- Organizer of the African seminar entitled "Persons with Disabilities in Africa and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", held in Conakry from 17 to 20 June 2008 by the Panafrican Federation of the Disabled with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Guinea and other partners.
- Initiator of the Guinean law on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities, adopted by Parliament in April 2008.
- Initiator and organizer of a number of training and socio-professional insertion programmes for persons with disabilities in the Republic of Guinea.

List of the candidate's most recent publications on the subject:

Publication in February 1991 in France of a pamphlet entitled "Such a long tale of suffering", recounting his experience as a deaf person.

György Könczei (Hungary)

Date and place of birth: 02.05.1958, Budapest, Hungary

Working languages: English (fluent), Hungarian (fluent), German (good), Russian (good)

Current position/function:

2007-	Chair, Governmental Committee for the European Social Charter, Council of Europe, Strasbourg
2005-	Founder and Head of Open University of Disability Studies, Budapest
2004-	Consultant on disability issues and on the European Social Charter, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Hungary
2000-	Professor of Disability Studies, (earlier) Dean of Bárczi Gusztáv College of Special Education, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest

Main professional activities:

2004-2008	Member of the Board of Trustees of Equal Opportunities of People with Disabilities Public Foundation, Budapest
2003-2006	Representative of Hungary in the United Nations Working Group on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities
2002-2004	Defender of the Republic of Hungary in the Council of Europe in respect of the European Social Charter, Strasbourg
1998-2000	Professor, European Studies Centre, Budapest University of Economic Studies
1997-1998	Editor of Act No. XXVI of 1998 on the Rights and Equal Opportunities of Persons with Disability in Hungary
1992/94 and 1997/98	Ministerial Adviser, Minister's Cabinet, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Hungary
1992-1993	Member of the United Nations Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Elaborate Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, Vienna: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/dissre00.htm
1990-1998	Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Economics and European Studies Centre, Budapest University of Economic Studies

Educational background:

1998	DSc, Sociology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest
1997	Dr. Habil., Budapest University of Economic Sciences

1989	PhD, summa cum laude, Sociology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest
1984	Doctorate in Philosophy, Karl Marx University of Economics, Budapest
1982	MS in Economics, Karl Marx University of Economics, Budapest

Other main activities:

2008-	Research on supported decision-making — Sociological research
2008-	Research on disability in Europe, Academic Network of European Disability Experts, Leeds, United Kingdom
2005-	Founder and editor of the international website: http://www.disabilityknowledge.org
2005-	Member of the Society for Disability Studies, USA http://www.disstudies.org
2005-2008	New curriculum for special education and E-learning in vocational rehabilitation, P.I., Human Resource Development Operative Programme, Structural Funds, European Union, Brussels
2004-2005	Fulbright research professor, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, New York
1997-2001	Member of the Supervisory Board of the Hand in Hand Foundation for People with Mental Disabilities (voluntary activity), Budapest
1997-1999	Consultant of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg
1990-1998	Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Economics and European Studies Centre, Budapest University of Economic Studies

List of recent publications:

- The Struggle for the Rights of People with Disabilities, in: Kósáné, Kovács Magda — Pető, Andrea (eds.): Balance Sheet. Disadvantaged Social Groups in Hungary, Napvilág Publishing Co., Budapest, 2007, pp. 185-205
- "Successes and Failures: a Study on the Hungarian Act No. XXVI of 1998 on the rights of persons with disabilities and their equal opportunities", Budapest, 2005
- Employment of persons with disabilities and altered working ability using a database of Top 200 companies, Abridged version, Budapest, 2003
- From Taygetos to Equal Opportunities, with Zsófia Kálmán, Osiris Kiadó, Budapest, 2002
- European Social Law, with Tamás Gyulavári, Osiris Kiadó, Budapest, 2000

Mateo A. Lee, Jr. (Philippines)

Date and place of birth: 30 March 1958, Manila

Working languages: English and Filipino

Current position/function: Executive Director III-Officer-in-Charge

Responsible for the management and administration of the day-to-day operations of the office. Assists in the preparation of communication strategy in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. Serves as the focal person representing the agency in the preparation of the Philippine Human Rights Action Plan under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Responsible for the preparation of reports and the monitoring report in the implementation of Philippine laws for people with disabilities.

Main professional activities:

Does managerial and administrative work and engages in advocacy activities. As a person with disability — visual impairment — Mr. Lee finds it effective to talk about the rights of persons with disabilities and negotiate with other government agencies for programme implementation. Also has a skill in writing because his previous work assignment was to write for a magazine published by the then National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons. His academic background is a Bachelor's Degree in Law and a Bachelor's Degree in Asian Studies. Most of his community work involvement is to organize persons with disabilities in the rural areas; he has served as a resource person for almost a decade.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

At present he is proposing to organize a task force on human rights for people with disabilities under the National Council on Disability Affairs to take charge of the monitoring and preparation of an action plan with respect to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in relation to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Is also involved in promoting the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and specifically in the data collection on the statistics of persons with disabilities spearheaded by the Department of Health. The Government of the Philippines will establish a registry of persons with disabilities. Also, by 2010 the National Statistics Office will start the Washington Group Initiative in the Philippine Census of Population to include the data on persons with disabilities. One of his focuses for 2009 is to advocate for access to justice by hearing-impaired persons, and he will propose that sign language interpreters be available in the Philippine courts.

List of most recent publications in the field:

1. International Collaboration (*Concern Magazine for Disabled Filipino Persons*)
2. Proposed Magna Carta for Disabled Persons

3. Access to Education "The Proposed Braille Department in the National Library"

4. Disability Issues on Information, Communication and Technology Development in the Philippines (www.worldenable.net/manila2003)

Ana María Liévano de Sol (El Salvador)

[Original: Spanish]

Date and place of birth: 11 February 1964, San Salvador

Working languages: Spanish and English

Current title or post:

Director of Legal and International Affairs of the National Secretariat for the Family.

Principal professional activities:

Wide-ranging professional activities.

Qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree in Law and authorized by the Supreme Court of Justice to practise law.

Other relevant activities:

Coordinator of the National Forum for the Dissemination in El Salvador of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Coordinator of the policy on equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, policy on food security, national policy on women, and national policy on care for older adults.

National coordinator on role of the family, women's rights, persons with disabilities, older adults, children and adolescents.

Since 2005, head of delegation to the Special Committee of the United Nations responsible for the elaboration of the text of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to the ceremony held in March 2007 to mark the accession of El Salvador to the Convention.

Adviser to the First Lady of the Republic in her capacity as President and Coordinator of the Executive Boards of the Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women (ISDEMU) and the National Council for the Integrated Care of the Elderly (CONAIPAM).

Preparation of national and international reports on the implementation of legal or institutional instruments related to the activities and competencies of the National Secretariat for the Family.

Experience in the work of the United Nations system.

Ronald McCallum, AO (Australia)

Date and place of birth: 8 October 1948, Melbourne, Australia

Working languages: English, French

Current position/function:

- Professor of Labour Law, University of Sydney, Australia
- Deputy Chair of Vision Australia, the largest representative organization of blind and vision-impaired people in Australia
- Chair of Radio for the Print Handicapped of New South Wales Co-operative Ltd., Australia, which radio broadcasts readings of newspapers and magazines for people with print disabilities
- Asian regional Vice-President of the International Society for Labour and Social Security Law
- Foreign correspondent to the National Academy of Arbitrators, United States of America and Canada
- Inaugural President of the Australian Labour Law Association
- Member of the Clinical Excellence Commission Board, Australia

Main professional activities:

- Former member of the Board of the Royal Blind Society of New South Wales, Australia
- Former member of the Advisory Committee to the New South Wales Commission for Children and Young Persons, Australia
- Solicitor, admitted to the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Australia, in 1994
- Special Counsel in Industrial Law, Blake Dawson Waldron (Solicitors)
- Foundation Blake Dawson Waldron Professor in Industrial Law
- Former Dean of Law, University of Sydney, Australia
- Former lecturer of labour law at the Osgoode Hall Law School at York University, Canada, and Duke University, United States of America
- Former Principal Executive Officer of, and Legal Adviser to, the Australian Industrial Relations Bureau

Educational background:

- Bachelor of Jurisprudence, 1970, Monash University, Australia
- Bachelor of Laws (Honours), 1972, Monash University, Australia
- Master of Laws, 1974, Queens University, Canada
- Bachelor of Jurisprudence Prize, 1970, the Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia
- Commonwealth Scholarship, 1972, Canada

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- As a member and Chair of the Board of Vision Australia, dealing with various issues concerning the rights of people with vision impairment, including education, training, mobility, technological aids, care of the elderly, etc.
- As Chair of Radio for the Print Handicapped of the New South Wales Co-operative Ltd., implementing greater accessibility to news and information for people with vision impairment and other print disabilities through radio broadcasting of newspapers and magazines
- Recognized for his active contribution to enhancing the rights of people with disability in Australia by being made an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) in 2002 and being awarded a Centenary Medal in 2006
- Queen's University Alumni Achievement Award winner as a former student with disability accomplishing outstanding achievements (2007)
- Foreign correspondent to the National Academy of Arbitrators, United States of America and Canada
- Personal experience with disability: blindness since birth

List of most recent publications in the field:

"Discriminating Against Women: Part Time Work, Child Care and the Family" (1985) 59 *Law Institute Journal*, pp. 692-694.

"Discrimination and the Omega Project; Trade Union Rules and the Self-Employed; The Demise of Wage Indexation; and Secret Ballot Legislation" (1981) 9 *Australian Business Law Review*, pp. 363-368.

"The 35 Hour Week Saga; Discrimination on the Grounds of Sex and Marital Status; and The Enquiry Into Wage Fixing Principles" (1981) 9 *Australian Business Law Review*, pp. 201-207

Sivalingum Moodley (South Africa)

Date and place of birth: 11 September 1949, Mount Edgecombe, Kwa-Zulu, Natal, South Africa

Working language: English

Current positions and functions:

- Director: Advocacy and Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities (ARCSWiD)
- Policy development; staff training and development; financial management; development and presentation of strategic operational plans
- Participation in University structures
- Developing awareness-raising programmes on disability
- Developed job descriptions for the various positions within ARCSWiD

Main professional activities:

- Developed a policy on students with disabilities for the University of South Africa
- Serving as external examiner for a Master's Programme in Disability Studies at the University of Cape Town
- Serving on the Executive Committee of the Higher Education Disability Services Association
- Representing the University of South Africa on the Disability Forum of the Foundation for Tertiary Institutions in the Northern Metropolis
- Member of the Accessibility Committee for People with Disabilities for a thesis on disability at the University of South Africa
- Responsible for implementing and monitoring the annual capital and operational budgets of ARCSWiD, and instituting cost control and asset management measures
- Convenor of the Policy Interpretive Function Sub-Committee
- Member of the Gender Mainstreaming Committee of the University of South Africa
- Serving on the Throughput Committee of the University of South Africa
- Teacher at the Urther Blaxll School for the Blind; Head of the Optima Training Centre for Visually Impaired Adults

Educational background:

1972-1973: Bachelor of Arts Degree (BA): University of Durban-Westville

Majors: English and Speech and Drama and University Higher Diploma in Education, University of Durban-Westville. Distinctions in English and Teaching Practice

1979: Diploma in Special Education (DSE) cum laude, University of South Africa

1982: Bachelor of Education Degree (BEd), University of South Africa

1993: Master of Education Degree (MEd), University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg

2004: Doctor of Education Degree (DEd), University of South Africa

2007: Certificate in Strategic Management, University of South Africa

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- Efficient and effective organizational, administrative, interpersonal and communication skills
- The ability to critique and write policy documents, research and general reports, media releases, letters and memorandums, employing appropriate language register and tone
- The ability to plan and conduct research
- The ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing
- The ability to interact with people, on both a formal and informal level
- The ability to facilitate meetings at a professional level
- Effective public speaking
- Computer literacy skills, including excellent knowledge of access technology
- Community involvement: serving on the National Council and the National Executive Committee of Disabled People South Africa as Deputy Chair: Human rights, monitoring development in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

List of most recent publications in the field:

- 1995-1996: Authored four English language textbooks for learners in grades 8-12 focusing on access to Learners with Disabilities
- 1997-2000: Contributed feature and general articles for publication in the bimonthly journal of the South African National Council for the Blind
- Published two papers on academic development on the website of the South African Academic Development Association
- Conducted two comprehensive research projects on the services of the University of South Africa to disabled students and published them

Ana Peláez Narváez (Spain)

[Original: Spanish]

Date and place of birth: 4 October 1966, Zafra.

Working languages: English, French and Spanish

Current position/function:

International Relations Director of the Spanish National Organization of the Blind (Organizacíon Nacional de Ciegos Españoles (ONCE))

Executive Vice-President of the ONCE Foundation for Solidarity with the Blind of Latin America

Commissioner for Gender Affairs of the Spanish Disability Council (Comité Español de Representantes de Personas con Discapacidad (CERMI))

Member of the Executive Committee and of the Board of Directors of the European Disability Forum (EDF) and Chairwoman of its Women's Committee

Main professional activities:

ONCE:

Develops and oversees international cooperation projects for improving the quality of life of blind people in different parts of the world.

Responsible for monitoring, reviewing and assessing European social policies with impact on persons with disabilities in Spain, especially the visually impaired, and for designing and coordinating advocacy efforts to ensure that European institutions pay greater attention to their needs.

Undertakes additional fund-raising activities.

Represents her organization in the European Blind Union, the Latin American Blind Union, the World Blind Union and the International Council for the Education of the Visually Impaired, among others.

CERMI:

Responsible for gender affairs and for monitoring disability issues at the European level; has a prominent position in EDF

Reviews and assesses Spanish gender policies to ensure that they cover disability; has appeared on several occasions before the Spanish Congress and Senate and the European Parliament.

Delivers numerous lectures and conducts seminars on gender and disability or European social issues

Coordinates the Spanish Network of Women Experts on Gender and Disability

Represents CERMI on the Royal Board on Disability (Real Patronato Sobre Discapacidad) as an expert and represents the organization in that capacity at the Women's Health Observatory (Observatorio de Salud de la Mujer) of the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs, the State Observatory against Gender Violence

(Observatorio Estatal contra la Violencia de Género) and the Governing Body of the Spanish Women's Institute (Consejo Rector del Instituto de la Mujer de España).

Educational background

- Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Seville
- Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Seville
- Master's degree in special needs of persons with disabilities and PhD courses at the University of Salamanca.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

Member of the Spanish Government delegation that took part in the travaux préparatoires for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Was a witness for Spain at the official signing ceremony (30 March 2007) and official deposit of Spain's instrument of ratification of the Convention and Optional Protocol on 3 December 2007. In recognition of her contribution in this field, she was recently awarded the Order of Isabel la Católica by His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain.

Most recent publications in this field

- Niños invisibles (Invisible Children, ONCE, 2004)
- Por la igualdad, unidas en la diversidad (For Equality, United in Diversity, CERMI, 2005)
- Plan integral de acción para la mujeres con discapacidad, 2005-2008 (Comprehensive Plan of Action for Women with Disabilities, CERMI, 2005)
- Reconciendo los derechos de las niñas y mujeres con discapacidad: un valor añadido para la sociedad futura (Recognizing the rights of girls and women with disabilities: a value added for future society, CERMI/EDF, 2008)
- Maternidad y discapacidad (Motherhood and disability, CERMI, 2008)
- Escuchando a los niños (Listening to children, ONCE, 2008)

Jesús Juan Portalanza Güere (Peru)

[Original: Spanish]

Date and place of birth: 1 November 1960, Lima

Working language: Spanish

Current position/function:

Chairman and General Manager of the "Victor Raúl Haya de la Torre" Disabled Workers' Cooperative, in partnership with Hoosung Development and Windy Plan, Inc., with an investment of over $10 million.

Main professional activities

Independent consultant, design of projects and programmes and management of social policies for persons with disabilities.

Coordinator of training programmes for leaders of organizations of persons with disabilities in Latin America through training seminars in Argentina, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

Educational background:

- Bachelor's degree in accounting and finance, Universidad Inca Garcilaso de la Vega.
- Master's level studies in sociology with a minor in political science, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body

- Former Chairman of the Consejo Nacional para la Integración de la Persona con Discapacidad (National Council for the Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, CONADIS), 2001
- Advisor to the Chairperson of Disabled Peoples' International
- President of the Peruvian Centre for Disabilities, Development and Democracy (Centro Peruano Discapacidad, Desarrollo y Democracia)
- Advisor to the policy committee of the Christian brotherhood of persons with illnesses and disabilities (Comisión política de la Fraternidad cristiana de personas enfermas y con discapacidad), a body recognized as an international Catholic organization by the Holy See.

List of most recent publications in the field:

- La razón de la memoria, las personas con discapacidad en la historia (the Logic of History, Persons with Disabilities throughout History), 2007.
- Manual de participación política y ciudadana para personas con discapacidad (Handbook on political and citizens' participation for persons with disabilities), published by the institutional strengthening project of the Peruvian Confederation of People with Disabilities (CONFENADIP), implemented with assistance from the Spanish Federation of Persons with Physical or Visceral Disabilities (COCEMFE) and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, 2006.

Colette Roberts-Risden (Jamaica)

Date and place of birth: 24 November 1971, St. Catherine, Jamaica

Working language: English

Current position/function:

Director of Social Security, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Kingston, Jamaica

As the Director of Social Security, Ms. Roberts-Risden is responsible for social policy formulation as well as the efficient management of the Social Security Division of the Ministry. The Director of Social Security has direct responsibility for the following policy areas: social assistance, national pensions, senior citizens and persons with disability. The Director of Social Security also holds responsibility for liaising with multilateral agencies to outline Government policies and determine technical, financial and other support that may be needed.

Main professional activities:

Develops and reviews the institutional and legislative framework for the provision of social security benefits.

Liaises with multilateral agencies to outline Government policies and determine technical, financial and other support that may be required.

Represents Jamaica at various international conferences and meetings in the area of social development and pensions.

Educational background:

Master's in Development Studies with an emphasis on social development and research, Consortium Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica.

Bachelor of Arts in geography with economics, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica.

Short courses undertaken:

1. Techniques for Social Policy Analysis, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica

2. Incorporating Gender Analysis into Inter-American Development Bank Development Projects, Jamaica

3. World Bank Certificate in Designing Effective Social Safety Net Programmes, Washington, D.C.

4. Project Management for Inter-American Development Bank Projects, Management Institute for National Development, Kingston, Jamaica

5. Evaluating Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes in the Caribbean and Latin America, World Bank Workshop, Mexico

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

Member, Advisory Board for the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Jamaica.

Develops national policies relating to persons with disabilities and oversees the implementation of various policy decisions.

Collaborates with Government agencies and non-governmental organizations and on the drafting of the National Disability Bill that seeks to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

Germán Xavier Torres Correa (Ecuador)

[Original: Spanish]

Place and date of birth: Quito, 25 April 1963

Working languages: Spanish and English

Current title or post

Parliamentary adviser to the National Congress, serving as Vice-President of the National Council on Disabilities (CONADIS); Vice-President of the National Federation of Ecuadorians with Physical Disabilities (FENEDIF); Coordinator of the five National Federations of and for Persons with Disabilities; President of the Ibero-American Network of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities.

Principal professional activities

Worked for the adoption and promulgation of the following: Act for the reform of the Disabilities Act; Act for the reform of the Labour Code; national policy on disabilities; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was also promulgated by executive decree; reform of the electoral law on access to polling stations by persons with disabilities; declaration of emergency in the sector of persons with disabilities in El Salvador; education and training in the objectives, concepts and mechanisms of inclusive development, at the international level; and promotion and dissemination of the contents of United Nations conventions.

Other relevant activities

National diagnostic workshops and consultations on mechanisms for social control and for the exercise of their fundamental rights by persons with disabilities; national and international advisory services on the management of employment services; "They Have the Right to Vote" campaign, supported by the "Equal Access to Taxis" project; agreements with municipalities on access to the physical environment and elimination of barriers; weekly radio programme "An Inclusive Ecuador"; team leader for projects for the promotion and exercise of political and workers' rights (USAID); "Promotion of Inclusive Development" (IDB-Social Inclusion Fund); "Young Promoters of Inclusive Rights" (Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, World Bank, Belgian Cooperation); "Occupational Training and Labour Insertion" (IDB-FOMIN).

Recent publications in the field

"Mecanismos para el cumplimiento de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad en Ecuador", FENEDIF, 2007; "Manual de funciones y procedimientos para entidades de discapacidad", FENEDIF, 2007; "Construyendo una sociedad incluyente", FEDEXPOR, 2008; "Confianza empresarial con la inserción laboral", *Public Advocate*, 2008; "La inserción laboral: una responsabilidad social", VIVE, 2008.

Cveto Uršič (Slovenia)

Date and place of birth: 9 August 1956, Kranj, Slovenia

Working languages: English (fluent), Croatian (fluent), Serbian (fluent), Slovenian (fluent) and German (good)

Current position/function:

- General director, Directorate for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, 2005
- Member of the Government Council for Persons with Disabilities, 2004

Main professional activities:

- Representative of Slovenia in the United Nations Working Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2005-2006
- Representative of Slovenia in the High-level Group on Disability at the European Commission, 2005
- Chairman of the National Committee responsible for the preparation of the presidency programme on disability during Slovenia's presidency of the Council of the European Union, 2007-2008
- Chairman of the National Task Force for the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities, 2006-2007
- Chairman of the working group responsible for preparation of the Governmental Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities, 2007-2013, 2006; and Chairman of the Governmental Committee for the monitoring of the Action Programme, 2008

Educational background:

- Graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University in Ljubljana in 1982
- Master's degree in European social policy analysis at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana, 1994 (Master's thesis: Comparative study of employment policies for people with disabilities within Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Slovenia)

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- Active for more than 25 years in numerous non-governmental disability and humanitarian organizations in Slovenia and at the international level
- Author, co-author and editor of more than 30 independent publications in the field of disability policy focused in particular on employment and enforcement of human rights
- Chairman of the expert council of the Association of Disabled Workers of Slovenia, 1998-2005, currently a member of the expert council
- Member of the expert council of the Cerebral Palsy Association — Sonček, 2001

- Individual member of the European Disability Forum
- National Coordinator for Slovenia in Rehabilitation International, 1993-2005

List of recent publications in the field:

- Editor and co-author of the Human Rights and Persons with Disabilities Series; from 1997 to 2005 six books were published
- Uršič, Cveto, et al, Research report: The right to equal opportunities and equal treatment — vocational rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities within the European Union and Slovenia, 2003
- Uršič, Cveto, Stanovnik, Tine. Invalidity pensions: the case of Slovenia. In: Prinz, Christopher (ed.). *European disability pension policies: 11 country trends 1970-2002* (Public Policy and Social Welfare, Vol. 26). Aldershot (UK); Brookfield (Ver.) [etc.]: Ashgate, cop. 2003
- Uršič, Cveto. Ageing with disability — are we ready for the challenge? In: Vaupotič, Mirko (ed.). European Union — chance for the elderly, 2004
- Uršič, Cveto, Tabaj, Aleksandra. Human rights of vulnerable groups — the case of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, *Soc. izziv*, 2005

Jia Yang (China)

Date and place of birth: 3 April 1963, Changsha, Hunan Province of China

Working language: English

Current position/function:

Professor of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). Member of the Central Women's Committee of the Jiu San Society, one of the eight democratic parties in China.

Founding Director of the Women's Committee of China Association of the Blind.

Member of the World Blind Union (WBU) Asia-Pacific Region Women's Committee.

Main professional activities:

In 2000, organized and attended the World Summit on Disability Movement in Beijing, participated in the drafting, discussion and ratification of the Beijing Declaration on the Rights of People with Disabilities in the New Century.

In 2000, attended the United Nations New Millennium Forum in New York and spoke on promoting the legislation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In 2000, as a representative of WBU, attended the Beijing+5 World Conference on Women in New York City.

From 1997 to the present, promoted the legislation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and advocated the ratification of the Convention by the Chinese National People's Congress. In addition, delivered numerous speeches to promote the public's recognition of the Convention.

Educational background:

1978-1982	Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou, China
1985-1987	Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China
2000-2001	Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

In 2000, attended the WBU fifth General Assembly in Australia and was elected to its Executive Committee; also served as chairperson of the plenary session on "Literacy and Culture" as well as Chairperson of the Women's Resolutions Committee, which proposed and succeeded in electing the first woman president in WBU history.

In 1998, attended the Fifth Congress of the Disabled Peoples' International in Mexico and spoke on the special panel, "Human Rights and Women".

In 1998, as a member of the WBU Literacy Committee, attended the Committee members' meeting in Sweden.

In 1997, was elected a member of the WBU Asia-Pacific Women's Committee in South Korea and spoke on the "WBU Second Women's Forum".

List of most recent publications in the field:

1. "I am, I ponder, I practice", won the best award in the China Academy of Sciences' competition on "Innovation in Education", 2007

2. "From zero to infinity: legal transplantation and legal globalization in the making of the Chinese law on the protection of rights for people with disabilities and the United Nations Convention", paper published for the International Symposium on Justice and Social Order during the Globalization Process, 2007

3. "Participation, Construction, and Sharing" in *Blind Citizen Monthly*, 2006